

Monroe County Early Intervention Program

PIP Meeting Minutes December 19, 2012

2:00-4:00pm

Announcements

Ann Marie:

- Packets were distributed to the Eval teams with data re # of evaluations authorized and # of evaluations completed per request from the less than arm's length provider meetings.
 - We have a new county clerical support employee. Her name is Brittany Simmons and she filled Norene Goodman's position. She will be providing clerical support of all programs in the division, including Early Intervention. She is at the same phone number as Norene's 753-5213
 - Denise Mantione is ending her contract with the county. She will be working at MCCC as the SLP Supervisor for the agency starting in January '13.
 - CPSE roundtable is scheduled for 1/7/13 from 1:30-3:30 at BOCES 1, 15 Linden Park. Contact Beth Grier-Leva.
- Action:** Ann Marie will confirm with Beth if a state ed rep is attending. Please send agenda items to Beth Grier-Leva at beth_grier-leva@boces.monroe.edu

EI Agenda

Summary of less than arm's length provider meetings: Ann Marie

Providers, primarily those who complete MDEs, held 2 meetings recently in response to the state's notice of revised rule-making regarding less than arms-length. At the first meeting, a discussion occurred re what impact or problems this would create locally. Many feelings were expressed and various possibilities identified. Providers requested that Ann Marie provide data which was distributed at today's meeting. There was continued discussion at the second meeting. Eval agencies are concerned that they will not be able to provide services for children they did the evaluation for and thus this will have a negative impact on their business. They proposed that they receive the same % of services as the % of evals completed. The general consensus at today's meeting is that providers will continue business "as usual" for the time being and will assess the impact as this new regulation rolls out and may decide to change their practice in order to ensure their sustainability.

One possibility that was suggested is to explore other ways of assigning services. **Action:** The County will be benchmarking with Onondaga and Erie County re their process and exploring the possibility of Monroe County adopting a similar process.

Discussion occurred re the provider availability grid. Some providers are not able to get into the grid. Please contact Renee Schumacher at CCHS if this is a problem. rschumacher@communicationctr.com

It is not clear re how useful and how often the provider grid is used by service coordinators and CPSE chairs. Ann Marie referenced the "Directions to Accompany the Provider Availability Grid" and emphasized that the grid was never meant to replace direct phone communication between service coordinators and providers. It was developed to replace the single sheet of paper that was handed around at PIP and that only those who attended the PIP had the opportunity to complete. We moved to the grid in an effort to make access to the availability of services more fair and equitable as well as timely. Providers requested that they receive a weekly email reminder to go in and update the grid. Ann Marie explored whether this would be possible to do via ContractHQ with the Purchasing Dept., but unfortunately the system doesn't have that capability. Another provider shared that she puts a reminder in her Lotus Notes or Outlook each week so she remembers to complete this task.

NYEIS is also supposed to have the capability of viewing provider availability at some point in the future which would only be useful in EI but not for CPSE chairs.

Ann Marie did send some questions to BEI re arm's length issues and has not heard back re specifics. When she called BEI to for a response, she was informed that they are collecting questions and will have a Q&A document re arm's length regulation. There is no anticipated date when this document will be issued by BEI. Also, Ann Marie has not received any information from BEI re the waiver information, including a will be a standardized form used and timeline re approval process.

Update on NYEIS billing related to co-visits for the purpose of a team meeting issue: Cindy

Cindy is the EIOD point person for OSC agencies. She sent 25 data change requests to BEI via NYEIS on 11/7 and on 12/9, received responses from BEI on 4 of them (16%). It was unclear re who adds the QPs under co-visits. BEI's response is that the user needs to put the QP in themselves. Cindy continues to communicate with BEI (Mike Iorio) in order to make more sense of this. Cindy has put in many, many hours re this and it is appreciated.

Update from last meeting re IFSP- paperwork that providers need to receive; paperwork that families receive' paperwork related to NYEIS: Ann Marie

Monroe County took the feedback from the providers meeting as well as other stakeholders and has a short-term & long-term plan for addressing the issues related to the IFSP. Our overarching goals are to provide consistent IFSP info to providers and to get back to the essence of the IFSP (i.e., family document). **Action:** Short-term: (1.) A Face Sheet will be revised that will be used by both ISCs and OSCs so that providers are receiving the same info from all SCs. (2.) The county staff completes 2 NYEIS data entry forms: the SC worksheet and the IFSP services and parent consent. The short term solution is to combine the 2 NYEIS forms into 1, removing the parent consent and other information not required in NYEIS and making sure this information is on the face sheet/ narrative for all IFSPs. The anticipated date for these short-term goals to be completed is the end of January. Long term: A workgroup of service coordinators led by Deb Tetlow will be meeting beginning mid-January. Once the workgroup has a revised IFSP, they will share it with the Parent Involvement Committee of LEICC for feedback before finalizing.

Overview of Service Coordination: OPWDD- responsibility of the eval team and ISC to determine if referral to OPWDD is appropriate. Everyone needs to be aware of eligibility criteria: Ann Marie

BEI will be issuing guidance re when to notify OPWDD and when to make a referral to OPWDD. Evaluators and Service Coordinators will play a role in this process and we are awaiting additional guidance from NYSDOH BEI. Children may also be identified after initial eligibility. The current eligibility for OPWDD is being revised and will be updated on their web site. <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/index.php>

Mariellen mentioned the referral, not the notification, will require cognitive testing results by a psychologist. There was a question re whether the psychologist would need to be a clinical psych or if a school psychologist would be acceptable.

Other: Pia

When is signed parent consent required when CPS calls the provider? Answer: CPS can talk to a provider who makes a CPS referral re the information on the referral and nothing else without parent consent. When CPS asks for additional information not related to the referral, the provider needs to get signed parent consent first before sharing information with CPS.

Preschool Agenda

Ann Marie referenced an article in today's D&C re more pre-school audits being done by State Ed on providers with the purpose of recouping money. State Ed now has a moratorium on approving new classrooms even though there are some agencies here interested in adding more classrooms. Ann Marie needs to know when classrooms are full as State Ed may make special considerations if "regional need" can be documented. Some providers have received calls from Paulette Kerr/State Ed. re classroom availability. MCCC has proposed a change in the ratio to fit more children with behavior needs into a classroom from 8:1:1 to 8:1:4. BOCES 2 most likely will end pre-school services before the summer of 2013. They have @ 60 children; some are 3 go 4 and some are 4 go 5. Vicki F. commented that Brockport and Hilton are already looking at summer services and holding annual meetings early in the winter vs. spring. Nancy C. asked about collecting data re approval letters and capacity. **Action:** Providers to send the following info o Ann Marie: # of classrooms and # of spaces available or indicated "full" as of 1/2/13. If you anticipate any "opening" between now and the end of the year, please indicate this as well.

Brief update on Standardized testing listed as a method to evaluate goal: Ann Marie

Some districts require annual standardized testing as a procedure to evaluate a goal(s). If they are requiring it annually it should state that on the IEP. If it doesn't contact the school district to discuss as the provider is responsible for implementing the IEP as it's written. Per last year's CPSE Roundtable, State Ed does not expect annual standardized testing to be listed as a procedure to evaluate a goal as a standard practice per Karen Donahue. The 2008 Guidance indicated a provider can use informal or formal assessment which does not require prior written notice (pwn) **if** this (i.e., annual standardized testing in domain) has been documented on the IEP as a procedure to

evaluate the goal annually. Some districts also require testing for quarterly reports. The county's role is the fiscal agent (pays the bills). State Ed is responsible for monitoring/auditing school districts for compliance, but they typically do not do this for preschool specifically. They typically only audit the providers.

Q- What is the provider required to provide to discharge/declassify a child?

Response: "Official" notes were not taken at the last CPSE Roundtable. According to my notes, declassification requires a re-evaluation, however, a re-evaluation does not necessarily = standardized test. CPSE can request or a provider can recommend to CPSE that standardized testing be completed, so re-evaluation *could* include standardized testing or it could include a record review.

It is important for providers to let the CPSE Chair know ASAP if you are considering declassification at the annual review meeting so the district can inform that family. The districts have to have parental consent to retest a child and have to provide Prior Written Notice (PWN) whether or not standardized testing is done. PWN needed for record review, observation of child, etc. - anything that will be used to consider declassification required PWN.

Action: Providers can send these types of questions and others to Beth Grier Leva prior to the CPSE roundtable in January and ask if they could be added to the agenda.

Status of the list that Kendra M offered to put together for CPSE Chairs based on info she received from providers: Ann Marie

The CPSE chairs indicated at the 10/12 meeting that they use the provider availability grid. Renee Schumacher added tabs to the Provider Availability Grid so that providers could log in and add this info under each tab.

Action: Vicki F. to follow up with Renee and send me an e-mail to distribute to all the preschool providers that explains to them what they need to do in the Provider Availability Grid underneath these new tabs so that the CPSE Chairs can access this info.

Medicaid Corporate Compliance Meeting- updates: Ann Marie

Ann Marie spoke with Karen at Kinney re Kinney checking the physicians who write the scripts against the exclusion list. Kinney can do this provided the providers have entered all the script info or minimally the physician's name. Some providers are just checking Medicaid only children. Ann Marie indicated that all children need to be checked as health insurance status can change. The problem is that this is time consuming and an additional cost to providers.

Other: Providers notes that there seems to be a wide variability from district to district on what qualifies a child for Special Ed services. Providers shared that there are discrepancies between what a child may with the same or similar needs may receive in one district vs. another. Ann Marie commented that there are various factors at play here, one being service delivery models. There have been past discussions, for example the EI RAP/EICC, re service delivery models but no action taken and no follow up at the state level re recommendations made.

Other:

C. Scheffer reported on a recent article: *Fiscal and Program Oversight of Preschool Providers*. **Action:** She will send article information out via email.

M. Cupini reported that ECDI and Winning Beginnings plan to go to Albany on February 12th after the Governor unveils his proposed budget in January. Child care subsidies are expected to be cut but expect an increase in UPK funding. LEICC is interested in participating in ECDI's visit to Albany as well. Marsha Dumka has list of recommendations by ECDI and **Action:** Mariellen will send to Ann Marie to send out to all. ECDI will plan to distribute legislative packets. **Action:** Ann Marie to send any SCS updates to Mariellen for legislative packets.

Next meeting: January 16th, 2013 at Stepping Stones Learning Center, 41 Colebrook Dr., Rochester 14617 467-4567